

'S' is special on proof sets

By Roger Boye

Notes and quotes about the world's greatest hobby:

● The shiny coins in 1982 proof sets sport redesigned S mint marks, report two Chicago collectors who received their sets from Uncle Sam in mid-April.

Unlike the plain S's used in 1980 and 1981, the letters this year have prominent serifs at each end of the S. Proof coins carry mint marks because they are made in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Mint says it may not complete the mailing of 1982 sets until Dec. 31.

● Canada hopes to save as much as \$4 million in production costs this year by drastically reducing the amount of nickel in its 5-cent coin.

The new coins now entering circulation contain 25 percent nickel and 75 percent copper [same as U.S. 5-cent pieces], down from the pure-nickel makeup used in past years.

● Uncle Sam churned out a record 16.52 billion coins in 1981, more than double the number made just a decade ago, according to recently released figures.

The coins are worth about \$652 million, roughly \$3 in "new change" for each U.S. citizen. Government machines are busiest producing 1-cent pieces, with nearly 12.9 billion pennies born last year.

● Again this summer, several youngsters will win scholarships to study hobby-related subjects at one-week seminars sponsored by the American Numismatic Association.

The awards pay for tuition, room and board, and round-trip air fare to the seminar city [either State College, Pa., from June 20 to 26; Stevens Point, Wis., July 11 to 17; or Colorado Springs, Colo., Aug. 1 to 7]. Recipients must be between ages 11 and 17.

For application forms, write to Florence Schnook, P.O. Box 2014, Livonia, Mich. 48154. The deadline for completed forms is May 15.

● It's still not too late to order 1981 gold medallions depicting authors Mark Twain and Willa Cather.